WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus operable from a remote user comprising:

a communication unit which provides a function to interface with a network;

a connection request unit which generates a request to establish a connection with the network;

an address holder which holds a logical address allotted when the connection is established; and

a server function unit which provides a predetermined service, when a network node of the user accesses the apparatus using the sent logical address, to the node as a client.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a monitor unit which detects a trigger signal transmitted by a remote node in compliance with a communication protocol which does not require connection to the network, wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a second communication unit which communicates with an external appliance which is under the control of the apparatus; and

an appliance controller which controls the external appliance via the second communication unit;

wherein the server function unit, as the predetermined service, receives an instruction for the control of the external appliance from the user node and transmits the instruction to the appliance controller and

the appliance controller converts the instruction to a control command of the external appliance and sends the command to the appliance via the second communication unit.

4. The apparatus of the claim 1 further comprising a second monitor unit which generates a trigger signal when status of the external appliance reported via the second communication unit satisfies a predetermined condition, wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal generated by the second monitor unit.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a third monitor unit which generates a trigger signal when information from a sensor sensing ambient environment satisfies a predetermined condition, wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal generated by the third monitor unit.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a disconnection request unit which disconnects from the network when access from the logical address has been suspended for a predetermined period.

7. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising an authentication unit which determines whether the remote node that issued the trigger signal is a user node managed by the apparatus.

8. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising:

a second communication unit which communicates with an external appliance which is under the control of the apparatus; and

an appliance controller which controls the external appliance via the second communication unit;

wherein the server functional unit, as the predetermined service, acquires an instruction for the control of the external appliance from the user node and transmits the instruction to the appliance controller; and

the appliance controller converts the instruction to a control command from the external appliance and sends the command to the appliance via the second communication unit.

9. The apparatus of the claim 3 further comprising a second monitor unit which generates a trigger signal when the status of the external appliance reported via the second communication unit satisfies a predetermined condition, wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal generated by the second monitor unit.

10. The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a third monitor unit which generates a trigger signal when information from a sensor sensing ambient environment satisfies a predetermined condition, wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal generated by the third monitor unit.

11. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising a disconnection request unit which disconnects from the network when access from the logical address has been suspended for a predetermined period.

12. An information processing method operable from a remote user comprising:

waiting in a stand-by mode in an off-line state as an initial state;

establishing connection with a network upon detecting a predetermined trigger signal;

receiving and holding a logical address allotted when the connection is established;

sending the held logical address to a network node of the user; and

providing a predetermined service, when a network node of the user connects to the sent logical address, to the node as a client.

13. An information processing apparatus operable from a remote user comprising:

a communication means for providing a function to interface with a network;

a connection request means for generating a request to establish a connection with the network;

an address holding means for holding a logical address allotted when the connection is established; and

a server function means for providing a predetermined service, when a network node of the user accesses the apparatus using the sent logical address, to the node as a client.

14. An information processing method operable from a remote user comprising the steps of:

waiting in a stand-by mode in an off-line state as an initial state;

establishing connection with a network upon detecting a predetermine trigger signal;

receiving and holding a logical address allotted when the connection is established;

sending the held logical address to a network node of the user; and

providing a predetermined service, when a network node of the user connects to the sent logical address, to the node as a client.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said network is the Internet, wherein the connection request unit relies on Point-to-Point Protocol and wherein the logical address is an Internet Protocol address.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein said network is the Internet, wherein the connection relies on Point-to-Point Protocol and wherein the logical address is an Internet Protocol address.